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of it has been deposited at the New York Botanical Garden.

R. C. B.

American Fern Society

OUR FIRST HONORARY MEMBER. The *Index Filicum* of Carl Christensen is easily the most indispensable of all fern books for the fern systematist who deals with more than local groups. Add to this his scholarly monographic work on the genus *Dryopteris* and related genera, mainly concerned with American forms, some briefer papers of which have appeared in the pages of the JOURNAL, and we have the basis for his election as an honorary member of the American Fern Society. The Society is honored in his acceptance which appears below.

In Vol. 2, p. 52 of the JOURNAL will be found a biographical sketch with a list (not quite complete) of his papers on ferns up to that time. We expect to publish a complete and up to date bibliography in the next issue. We may hope that future numbers of the JOURNAL may include many more contributions from our first honorary member.

R. C. B.

To THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY:

I take great pleasure in expressing my acceptance of and gratitude for the honor which the American Fern Society has conferred upon me by electing me a honorary member of the Society, and of which I hope I shall prove myself worthy.

I wish that your Society may be continuously growing for the benefit of that branch of botany, that its members and myself are so devotedly studying. I will always be glad to publish in the AMERICAN FERN

JOURNAL smaller contributions relating to American ferns.

CARL CHRISTENSEN.

COPENHAGEN, DEC. 1, 1915.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY

Report of the President for 1915

The year 1915 was one of progress for the Society. In my report last year I asked the coöperation of the members in attaining certain results, and I have to thank them for the response made. I asked for help in securing a file of the publications of the Society, with the result that, where two years ago the Society had no records at all, it has today a practically complete file of its reports and publications and will soon have one of the *Fern Bulletin*. I asked that local meetings be held: four have been reported, at three of which it was my privilege to be present. I asked for increased membership, and it has come, largely as a result of the local meetings. I stated that the Council believed that receipts from the sale of back numbers of the JOURNAL should not be used for ordinary running expenses, but set aside to form a special fund against possible future contingencies. This we have been able to do and still pay all bills for the year, with a few dollars to spare.

That these results have been attained is—beside the interest and coöperation of many members—largely because of the efficient work of the editors, the secretary and the men who have served as treasurer. We have been so fortunate as to be able to retain the services of Dr. Benedict as editor-in-chief. We have had four good numbers of the JOURNAL and even better things are planned for the year to come. We have a JOURNAL

to be proud of, and the editors would enlarge it at once if the Council did not stint them as to expenditures.

Under the care of Curator Hopkins the Society herbarium has been largely increased, valuable additions having been made during the year, as will be seen from his report.

So much for the year past; now, what of the coming one? I shall be much disappointed if, when I turn over my office to my successor next year, I cannot say that the Society has 300 members in good standing. There is no reason why we should not have that number and more, but the increase must come as a result of the work of individual members. It is planned to enclose two application blanks with the first number of the JOURNAL for 1916 and if the members will see them properly placed, we shall, without doubt, get the desired increase. Members should, where possible, arrange for local meetings. These will be especially valuable if they can have the aid of some local botanical or natural history society. Members are asked to remember the Society fern gardens and send in plants for cultivation in them.

I suspect that to many members the coming of the JOURNAL is almost the only evidence they have of their connection with the Fern Society. This is not as it should be, for one of the first objects of the Society is to promote acquaintance among the members. I can say, personally, that some of the most valued friends I have came to me through such acquaintance. The best wish, then, for the coming year that, as President, I can leave with the members, is that it may bring to each, through our Society, at least one new friend.

C. H. BISSELL, *President.*

Report of the Secretary for 1915

The year has been one of considerable activity in the Society. Four meetings have been held—at Worcester, Mass., Rainbow, Conn., Syracuse, N. Y., and Berkeley, Cal. Three of these have already been reported in the JOURNAL. The fourth, at Rainbow, was an informal one-day field meeting in late June, attended by Messrs. Bissell, Winslow, and Weatherby from among the officers and by about twenty nature-lovers from the vicinity of Hartford. Under the guidance of Mr. Bissell and Mr. H. C. Bigelow, the day was agreeably spent in exploring a tract of woodland remarkable for the number of forms and hybrids of the shield ferns which grew in it. Some of the rarer Botrychiums were also found.

During the year one member, Dr. Charles E. Bessey, has died. Six have resigned: four, after every possible effort to reclaim them, have been regretfully dropped for non-payment of dues. 40 new members have been received of whom one, Mr. Carl Christensen, is an honorary, and one, Mr. Seth Bunker Capp, a life member—in each case, the first of his class. The total number of members, not including the single honorary one, is now (December 31, 1915) 255, the largest in the history of the Society. But it is not enough. Probably it is a comparatively small proportion of the Americans who are interested, more or less, in ferns; and the Society should not be satisfied, nor can it reach its full usefulness, until it has them all.

The annual election brought out the largest vote yet cast—a gratifying indication of active interest on the part of the members. Two amendments to the Constitution were adopted, the text of which follows:

“Add to Article III the following:

SECTION 5. Any eligible person may become a life member on payment, at any one time, of a fee of fifteen dollars, and shall thereafter be subject to no dues or assessments. All such fees shall be held and invested

as a permanent fund, the principal of which shall not be expended, but the income from which may be used for the purposes of the Society on vote of the Council. Contributions for the purpose and other available moneys may be added to this fund at the discretion of the Council."

Recommended by the Council.

"Amend Article VI by striking out Section 2 and substituting the following:

This Committee shall nominate officers for the coming year and forward the list of nominees to the President before September first. Any other nominations, if endorsed by three members in good standing and received by the Chairman of this Committee by August twentieth, shall be incorporated in the ballot for that year."

Proposed by R. A. Ware, E. J. Winslow, and H. G. Rugg.

Three species of ferns—*Botrychium simplex*, *Ophioglossum Engelmanni*, and *Pellaea glabella*—have been offered to members during the year. It is planned to make at least one such offering in each number of the forthcoming volume of the JOURNAL.

C. A. WEATHERBY, *Secretary*.

Report of the Treasurer

I took over the treasury in April, and this report must include the work of my predecessor, Mr. F. G. Floyd, from January until April. I found the books in fine shape, they having been most conscientiously kept by Mr. Floyd. So far as the treasurer is aware, every bill that was incurred in 1915 has been paid, and there are no debts of any sort whatever.* Last year the Society had an available cash balance, after providing for bills contracted in 1914, of \$6.05. There is in the treasury today, aside from the Life Membership Fund, \$56.34, a gain of \$50.29 for the year, a cause for congratulations to the Board of Officers who planned the year's finances. As stated in the report of the Treasurer last year, a plan for a budget was tried for 1915

*Since writing this report the Treasurer learns that there is a bill not yet presented for plates for No. 4 of the JOURNAL to be paid from the special Illustrating fund given for that object.

expenses, the Treasurer being thus able to pay the regular bills of the Society after proper certification without having to send an order around the Council for each bill. The plan has worked well, in only three cases was it necessary to increase budget amounts and those were on account of unforeseen events in the life of the Society.

The total of original allowances for the budget was \$280.00, the actual expenditure on budget account was \$278.08. The same plan is to be carried out for the year 1916.

**TREASURER'S ACCOUNT FROM JANUARY 1, 1915, TO DEC.
31, 1915**

RECEIPTS		
Cash on hand January 1, 1915.....		\$109.12
Membership dues for 1912.....		\$1.00
" " " 1913.....		4.00
" " " 1914.....		26.50
" " " 1915.....		203.00
" " " 1916.....		6.00
" " " 1917.....		1.00
		241.50
Subscriptions " 1915.....		33.12
" " " 1916.....		3.26
		36.38
Advertising.....		4.00
Special Illustrating fund.....		11.50
" Gift for JOURNAL.....		7.50
Sale of Back Numbers of JOURNAL.....		28.75
Miscellaneous receipts.....		1.94
		\$440.69

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

Received, 1 Life Membership.....	\$15.00
The income only of this fund is available for expenses.	

DISBURSEMENTS

Bills incurred for JOURNAL in 1914 as per Treasurer's statement of last year, but not paid until after Jan. 1, 1915.....	\$103.07
Expenses for 1915	
President's Expense, Postage.....	\$2.00
Carried forward.....	\$2.00 \$103.07

Brought forward.....	\$2.00	\$103.07
Curator's Expense, Supplies.....	7.40	
Editors' Expense, Posting, Mailing JOURNAL, etc.....	16.97	
Treasurer's Expense, Postage and Supplies.....	16.01	
Secretary's Expense, Postage and Printing.....	6.03	
Printing Membership Lists and Letterheads.....	16.50	
Publishing JOURNAL, 4 numbers.....	208.67	
Incidental Expenses.....	7.70	
		\$281.28
		\$384.35
Cash on hand December 30, 1915.....	56.34	
		\$440.69

Of the cash balance, \$28.75, received from the sale of back numbers of the JOURNAL, is held as a special emergency fund.

J. G. UNDERWOOD, *Treasurer.*

Report of the Curator for 1915

The Society herbarium has grown during the past year and now numbers 2234 mounted sheets. Eight loans were made to members during the year. The exchange department is flourishing and exchanges have been made with twelve different persons since the last report. Members are asked to send a list of their material first, as the department cannot give out rare material and receive none in return.

The collection of Phillipine material, 483 sheets in all, donated by Mr. D. LeRoy Topping and mentioned in the last report, has all been mounted. This collection contains about 180 different species in about 55 genera.

Through an exchange, the Society has received a set of the pteridophytes of the Hawaiian Islands from Mr. C. N. Forbes, Curator of Botany in the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, H. I. There are 259 sheets in this collection, representing 38 genera and 113 species.

Miss F. E. Corne has contributed an interesting set of 30 sheets collected by her in the vicinity of Grafton, Vt.

Mr. B. F. Bush is credited with 8 sheets from Missouri.

When the Society Herbarium was turned over to the present curator some seven or eight years ago the material received, as shown by the report issued shortly after, numbered 553 sheets. During the early part of the present year, in looking over some old reports, it became plainly evident that not all of the Society's herbarium had been transferred to the present curator. Considerable correspondence followed, with the net result that 205 sheets were recovered.

It seems that most of the A. A. Eaton herbarium was acquired by the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, where it has been gradually incorporated into the general collection, and that, by mistake, a large part of the Society Herbarium went with it. As it was not marked in any way, there was no means of telling the two herbaria apart. When his attention was called to the error, Dr. B. L. Robinson of the Gray Herbarium courteously permitted our Secretary, Mr. C. A. Weatherby, to examine all the available material. Moreover, in addition to specimens which could be identified as the property of the Society, he very generously presented to it a set of the remaining Eaton duplicates, the whole amounting to the 205 sheets already mentioned.

This material was mounted by Miss Una L. Foster and Mr. Weatherby, for which the Curator wishes to thank them.

Future mix-ups of this sort cannot occur, as each sheet belonging to the Society is now stamped as its property and numbered. Also, a card index is kept which gives the name, number, and place of collection of each sheet.

Specimens will be determined for members free of charge. All specimens sent in for determination should be accompanied by full and accurate data, and will be placed in the Society Herbarium. All members of the genus *Isoëtes* and all the more critical species of the genus *Equisetum* are especially desired.

L. S. HOPKINS, *Curator.*

Report of the Editors for 1915

Aside from the Society membership there are forty-four paid subscribers for the JOURNAL, chiefly public libraries, colleges, and natural history clubs. Six of these were received during the year 1915 and four were lost, two by withdrawal and two by transfer to the membership list. Many sample copies have been sent to libraries and institutions, but to bring the matter properly to the attention of a periodical committee a personal interview is usually necessary. Members who live in the vicinity of large libraries can do good service for the Society by presenting this matter to the proper authorities. Sample copies will gladly be sent at the request of any member who will undertake this work.

There remain exactly 30 full sets of Vol. I of the JOURNAL among the back numbers held for sale. These will doubtless be exhausted sometime before the end of another five years, so subscribers who wish to fill their sets should act promptly.

From the standpoint of the preparation of the JOURNAL number by number there is little for the editors to report which differs from reports of other years. We find no dearth of copy. In fact, we are usually one or two whole numbers ahead and the major part of every number comes to us unsolicited. There is little question that if finances permitted, we could issue forty or

fifty page numbers instead of thirty-two. Judging by a number of commendatory letters and practically none finding fault, the contents of the JOURNAL meet the approval of the members.

The prospects for the present year include two state fern floras, two detailed studies of related ferns, and, we hope, a check list which will bring out the almost complete unanimity which now obtains with respect to the scientific names of our native ferns among the various institutions of the country, as well as serve as a basis for collectors. An interesting suggestion has been made recently that there should be prepared a list of native ferns giving the best common names as far as there are any, and proposing new ones where good ones are lacking. We shall be glad to receive the opinions of members both as to the advisability of such a list and as to names which it should include. Undoubtedly there are a considerable number of members who do not readily accustom themselves to the technical names and who would like a standard list of English synonyms.

Finally we can only reaffirm that we wish to act for the members: to prepare for publication what they send in, and to contribute as opportunity offers to the general knowledge of ferns. We shall accept anything which adds to fern knowledge, or is of interest in this connection—especially checks to pay for more pages or for more illustrations. For the latter as heretofore our funds are inadequate and before the year is over we shall probably have to ask some contributors to furnish part of the cost of any plates, as well as to contribute toward them ourselves.

R. C. BENEDICT,
E. J. WINSLOW,
C. A. WEATHERBY,
Editors.

Report of the Judge of Elections

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY:

The undersigned, Judge of Elections by appointment of President Charles H. Bissell, respectfully presents the following report of the balloting at the annual election held in October, 1915:

Whole number of ballots cast..... 108

<i>For President</i>	<i>For Secretary</i>
Mr. Charles H. Bissell.....	87
Mr. H. E. Ransier.....	19
Not voting.....	2
Mr. C. A. Weatherby.....	84
Mr. Stewart H. Burnham.....	22
Not voting.....	2

For Vice-President

For Treasurers

Rev. John Davis.....	73	Mr. J. G. Underwood.....	69
Mr. Harold W. Pretz.....	28	Miss Mina K. Goddard.....	37
Mr. James G. Scott.....	1	Not voting.....	2
Not voting.....	6		

Amendment to Article III of the Constitution:	{	for.....	94
		against.....	6
		not voting.....	8

Amendment to Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution { for 98
against 5
not voting 5

I therefore declare the election of Mr. Charles H. Bissell as President, Rev. John Davis as Vice-President, Mr. Charles A. Weatherby as Secretary, and Mr. Jay G. Underwood as Treasurer, of the American Fern Society for 1916; of Mr. Carl Christensen as an honorary member; and the adoption of the two proposed amendments to Article III and Article VI, Section 2, of the Constitution.

EDWIN C. JELLETT.

GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dr. A. J. Grout sends an attractive invitation for a field meeting, next July, at his cabin in Newfane, Vt. He writes that he can furnish shelter for about twelve women and an equal number of men, transportation for supplies and guides for excursions and that his welcome holds good for as many days as the party wish to stay. Bedding, food, and, in the case of a very large party, tents would have to be furnished by the visitors. Photographs sent with his letter show an exceptionally beautiful country, and he promises good fern-hunting. Further notice will appear in the next number of the JOURNAL; meantime, the Secretary will be glad to hear from members who think they could attend such a meeting, that tentative plans may be made.

Mr. C. H. Bissell, Southington, Conn., offers *Schizaea pusilla* and *Scolopendrium vulgare* for postage. The number of specimens which he has is somewhat limited, but he will make them go as far as possible, on the principle of "first come, first served."

Will any one who knows the present address of Mr. Herbert M. Mapes kindly inform the Secretary what it is? His address, as last reported, is given in the list of members, but letters sent there have been returned.